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MS RCE Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,  
on the date shown below.

Dated: March 20, 2006

Signature:

*Judy Bridgewater*  
(Judy Bridgewater)

Docket No.: 246152012710  
Client ref.: 02818 US/DIV1  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Wilhelmus Theodorus Antonius Maria DE LAAT et al.

Application No.: 09/982,474

Confirmation No.: 8056

Filed: October 17, 2001

Art Unit: 1655

For: INDUSTRIAL PROCESS FOR  $\beta$ -LACTAM  
ANTIBIOTICS USING CHEMICALLY  
DEFINED MEDIA (AS AMENDED)

Examiner: R. O. Winston

### FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

### INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

A Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith. This Preliminary Amendment is in further response to the Final Office Action mailed October 19, 2005, and the Advisory Action mailed February 8, 2006. A petition for an extension of time of two (2) months until March 19, 2006, which was a Sunday, is attached hereto, along with the required fee. Reconsideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.